What is claimed is:

1.   A corporate rating system, wherein a corporate
rating business entity in a business of performing
corporate ratings, one or a plurality of enterprises
having a prescribed contractual relationship with said
corporate rating business entity and desiring a corporate
rating of itself, and an application service provider
(ASP) are mutually electrically connected via an
appropriate communication circuit, and wherein business
information indicating general business activities,
including at least financial, accounting, and tax
information for each target enterprise is stored at said
ASP separately for each said target enterprise, said
system comprising a function whereby said corporate
rating business entity having an unique corporate rating
software, obtains required information with regard to
said target enterprise in said contractual relationship
desiring a corporate rating from said ASP and performs a
corporate rating for said target enterprise using
corporate rating software.

2.   A corporate rating system according to claim 1,
wherein said operation of transferring to and storing in
said ASP business information indicating general business
activities of each enterprise and said operation of
performing a corporate rating with respect to each said
enterprise at said corporate rating business entity are
performing as processing by a computer.

3. A corporate rating system according to claim 1, wherein an accounting firm is electrically connected to said communication circuit.

4. A corporate rating system according to claim 3, wherein said accounting firm views or downloads business information indicating general business activities, such as financial, accounting, and tax information of each target enterprise, using a terminal of said accounting firm from said ASP and, based on said business information, evaluates details of closing account of said enterprise, issues an electronic signature certifying the accuracy and appropriateness of details of closing account of said enterprise, and stores said electronic signature at the ASP.

5. A corporate rating system according to claim 4, wherein said corporate rating business entity refers an electronic signature stored at said ASP, and executes a corporate rating evaluation of a prescribed enterprise.

6. A corporate rating method wherein a corporate rating business entity engaging in a business of performing corporate rating, one or a plurality of target enterprises having a prescribed contractual relationship with said corporate rating business entity, and desiring a corporate rating of itself and an application service provider (ASP) are mutually electrically connected via a communication circuit, said method comprising:

a step of each said target enterprise minimally transmitting to said ASP via said communication circuit at an appropriate interval business information

indicating general business activities, such as financial, accounting, and tax information for their own enterprises, so as to maintain at all times an updated condition within said ASP of latest business information with regard to each said target enterprise;

a step of said target enterprise viewing or downloading from said ASP via its own terminal said business information with regard to its own enterprise;

a step of said corporate rating business entity accessing said ASP, and viewing or downloading via a terminal of said corporate rating business entity a part or all of information stored in said ASP regarding an enterprise desiring a corporate rating;

a step of said corporate rating business entity using proprietary corporate rating software that it has to execute an evaluation of said viewed or downloaded information regarding said target enterprise, and executing a prescribed corporate rating with respect to said target enterprise; and

a step of said corporate rating business entity disclosing results of said corporate rating to the public, said step being executed via a computer.

7. A corporate rating method according to claim 6, wherein an accounting firm which having a prescribed contractual relationship with a corporate rating business entity and an enterprise is electrically connected to said communication circuit.

8. A corporate rating method according to claim 7, wherein said accounting firm views or downloads a part of

or all of the business information indicating general business activities of each target enterprise, stored in said ASP from said ASP using a terminal of said accounting firm, and based on said business information

5 viewed or downloaded therein, evaluates details of closing account of said enterprise, issues an electronic signature certifying the accuracy and appropriateness of details of closing account of said enterprise, and stores said electronic signature at the ASP.

10 9.   A corporate rating method according to claim 6, wherein said corporate rating business entity, in said step of executing a prescribed corporate rating with respect to said enterprise, considers said evaluation of closing account details of said enterprise made by said

15 accounting firm and executes said corporate rating.

10. A corporate rating method according to claim 6, wherein said ASP is placed under the control of said corporate rating business entity.

11. A corporate rating method according to claim 6,

20 wherein said communication circuit is the Internet.

12. A corporate rating method according to claim 6, further comprising a step of each said target enterprise separately accessing said ASP, and using its own business activities and said electronic signature issued by said

25 accounting firm in creating a financial accounting report and a stock report.

13.   A corporate rating method wherein a corporate rating business entity in a business of performing corporate rating, one or a plurality of target enterprises desiring

a corporate rating and having a prescribed contractual relationship with said corporate rating business entity, an accounting firm, and an application service provider (ASP) are mutually electrically connected via the

5 Internet, said method comprising:

a first step of an enterprise desiring its own corporate rating minimally transmitting to said ASP via a terminal of its own general business information, such as its financial, accounting, and tax information, so as to

10 store said information within said ASP, and performing tasks of updating, deleting, or viewing said information;

a second step of said ASP storing various business information sent to it from each said target enterprise in separate files for each said target enterprise and, in

15 a case in which there is a request from a target enterprise, said accounting firm, or said corporate rating business entity, providing said business information regarding a prescribed target enterprise to said prescribed target enterprise, said accounting firm,

20 or said corporate rating business entity;

a third step of said accounting firm, based on said prescribed business information provided by the ASP, auditing and evaluating closing account details of said target enterprise and, in a case in which the accuracy

25 and appropriateness of said closing account details of the target enterprise have been verified, transmitting an electronic signature certifying said accuracy and appropriateness of said closing account details of said target enterprise to said ASP;

a fourth step of said corporate rating business entity accessing said ASP, considering said business information and said closing account details bearing said electronic signature regarding a prescribed target enterprise viewed or downloaded from said ASP, and using corporate rating software proprietarily held by said corporate rating business entity to perform a corporate rating with regard to said prescribed target enterprise; and

a fifth step of said corporate rating business entity disclosing results of said corporate rating regarding said target enterprise.

14. A corporate rating method wherein a corporate rating business entity in a business of performing corporate rating, one or a plurality of target enterprises desiring a corporate rating and having a prescribed contractual relationship with the corporate rating business entity, an accounting firm, and an application service provider (ASP) are mutually electrically connected via the Internet, said corporate rating method comprising:

a step 1a of an enterprise desiring its own rating minimally transmitting to said ASP via a terminal, its own general business information showing its general business activities, such as its financial, accounting, and tax information, so as to store said information within said ASP, and performing tasks of updating, deleting, or viewing said information;

a step 2a of said accounting firm requesting said ASP to provide business information regarding a prescribed target enterprise;

a step 3a of said ASP, in response to a request from said accounting firm, providing business information of said prescribed target enterprise to said accounting firm;

a step 4a of said accounting firm, based on said business information of said prescribed target enterprise provided from said ASP, auditing and evaluating associated closing account details and, in the case in which the accuracy and appropriateness thereof have been verified, transmitting to said ASP an electronic signature certifying said accuracy and appropriateness of said associated closing account details;

a step 5a of the ASP, in a case of receiving from said accounting firm an electronic signature of said accounting firm with regard to said closing account details of said prescribed enterprise, notifying said prescribed enterprise and said corporate rating business entity of said fact;

a step 6a of said corporate rating business entity, based on notification of receiving an electronic signature from said ASP, making a request to said ASP for provision of as business information stored separately for each target enterprise by said ASP with regard to said prescribed enterprise;

a step 7a of said ASP, in response to said request from said corporate rating business entity, providing

said business information regarding said prescribed enterprise to said corporate rating business entity;

a step 8a of said corporate rating business entity considering said business information regarding said prescribed enterprise and said closing account details having an electronic signature obtained from said ASP, and using corporate rating software that said corporate rating business entity proprietarily owns to perform a corporate rating with regard to said prescribed enterprise; and

a step 9a of said corporate rating business entity disclosing results of said corporate rating with regard to said enterprise,

said step being controlled by a computer.

15. A recording medium onto which is recorded a program for execution by computer of a corporate rating method wherein a corporate rating business entity in a business of performing corporate rating, one or a plurality of target enterprises desiring a corporate rating and having a prescribed contractual relationship with said corporate rating business entity, and an application service provider (ASP) are mutually electrically connected via the Internet, this method comprising:

a step of each target enterprise minimally transmitting via its terminal to the ASP at an appropriate interval business information indicating its general business activities, such as financial, accounting, and tax information, and maintaining an updated condition thereof, so that said business

information indicates said business activities for each enterprise at all times;

a step of the target enterprise viewing or downloading its own business information from said ASP at any time, via its own terminal;

a step of said corporate rating business entity accessing said ASP, and viewing or downloading part or all of said information stored in said ASP with regard to an enterprise desiring a corporate rating via a terminal of said corporate rating business entity;

a step of said corporate rating business entity using corporate rating software it owns proprietarily to execute an analysis and evaluation of information it viewed or downloaded with regard to an enterprise, and executing a prescribed corporate rating with regard to said enterprise; and

a step of said corporate rating business entity disclosing results of said corporate rating.

16. A recording medium onto which is recorded a program for execution by a computer of a corporate rating method wherein a corporate rating business entity in a business of performing corporate rating, one or a plurality of target enterprises desiring a corporate rating and having a prescribed contractual relationship with said corporate rating business entity, an accounting firm, and an application service provider (ASP) are mutually electrically connected via the Internet, said method comprising:

a first step of an enterprise desiring its own rating minimally transmitting to said ASP via a terminal, its own general business information indicating its general business activities, such as its financial,

5 accounting, and tax information, so as to store said information within said ASP, and performing tasks of updating, deleting, or viewing said information;

a second step of said ASP storing various business information sent to it from each said target enterprise

10 in separate files for each said target enterprise and, in a case in which there is a request from either one of said target enterprise, said accounting firm, or said corporate rating business entity, providing said business information regarding a prescribed target enterprise to

15 any one of said prescribed target enterprise, said accounting firm, or said corporate rating business entity;

a third step of said accounting firm, based on said prescribed business information provided by said ASP,

20 auditing and evaluating closing account details of said target enterprise and, in a case in which the accuracy and appropriateness of said closing account details of said target enterprise have been verified, transmitting an electronic signature certifying said accuracy and

25 appropriateness of said closing account details of the target enterprise to said ASP;

a fourth step of said corporate rating business entity accessing said ASP, considering business information and closing account details bearing an

electronic signature regarding a prescribed target enterprise viewed or downloaded from said ASP, and using corporate rating software proprietarily held by said corporate rating business entity to perform a corporate

5   rating with regard to said prescribed target enterprise; and

a fifth step of said corporate rating business entity disclosing results of said corporate rating regarding said target enterprise.

10   17.   A recording medium onto which is recorded a program for execution by a computer of a corporate rating method wherein a corporate rating business entity in a business of performing corporate rating, one or a plurality of target enterprise desiring a corporate rating and having

15   a prescribed contractual relationship with said corporate rating business entity, an accounting firm, and an application service provider (ASP) are mutually electrically connected via the Internet, said method comprising:

20   a step 1a of an enterprise desiring its own rating minimally transmitting to said ASP via a terminal, its own general business information indicating its general business activities thereof, such as its financial, accounting, and tax information, so as to store said

25   information within said ASP, and performing tasks of updating, deleting, or viewing said information;

a step 2a of said accounting firm requesting said ASP to provide business information regarding a prescribed target enterprise;

a step 3a of said ASP, in response to a request from said accounting firm, providing business information of said prescribed target enterprise to said accounting firm;

5   a step 4a of said accounting firm, based on said business information of said prescribed target enterprise provided from said ASP, auditing and evaluating associated closing account details and, in a case in which the accuracy and appropriateness thereof have been

10 verified, transmitting to said ASP an electronic signature certifying said accuracy and appropriateness of said associated closing account details;

a step 5a of said ASP, in a case of receiving from said accounting firm an electronic signature of said

15 accounting firm with regard to said closing account details of said prescribed enterprise, notifying said prescribed enterprise and said corporate rating business entity of said fact;

a step 6a of said corporate rating business entity,

20 based on notification of receiving an electronic signature from said ASP, making a request to said ASP for provision of said business information stored separately for each target enterprise by said ASP with regard to said prescribed enterprise;

25   a step 7a of said ASP, in response to said request from said corporate rating business entity, providing said business information regarding said prescribed enterprise to said corporate rating business entity;

a step 8a of said corporate rating business entity considering said business information regarding said prescribed enterprise and said closing account details having an electronic signature obtained from said ASP,

5 and using corporate rating software that said corporate rating business entity proprietarily owns performing a corporate rating with regard to said prescribed enterprise; and

a step 9a of said corporate rating business entity

10 disclosing results of said corporate rating with regard to said enterprise.